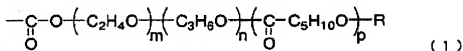


AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

LISTING OF CLAIMS:

1. (currently amended): Aqueous ink comprising, as a dispersant, a graft copolymer having a weight average molecular weight of from 1,000 to 100,000 and comprising: a polymer having a weight average molecular weight of from 300 to 10,000 represented by the following formula (1) as a side chain; and a polymer as a main chain comprising a hydrophobic monomer unit as an essential component, and, if necessary, other copolymerizable monomer unit as a constitutional component:



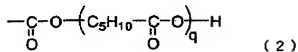
wherein the sum of m and n is 1 or more, p is 0 or 1 or more, and R is a chemical structural unit having an ionic functional group, wherein the ionic functional group is a carboxyl group or a tertiary amino group, and

wherein the graft copolymer is formed by a macromonomer method, an ionic polymerization method, a chain transfer method, or a method of making an active site with radiation and polymerizing a monomer.

2. (canceled).

3. (currently amended): Aqueous ink comprising, as a dispersant, a graft copolymer having a weight average molecular weight of from 1,000 to 100,000 and comprising: a polymer having a weight average molecular weight of from 300 to 10,000 represented by the following formula (1) ~~formula (2)~~ as a side chain; and a polymer as a main chain comprising a

hydrophobic monomer unit as an essential component, and, if necessary, other copolymerizable monomer unit as a constitutional component,



wherein q is 1 or more.

4. (previously presented): The aqueous ink as claimed in any of claims 1 to 3,
wherein the side chain in the graft copolymer is formed of a macromonomer.